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14 May 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Today the Palestinian people solemnly commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of al-nakba (the catastrophe), the dispossession of our people and the uprooting of over 750,000 Palestinians from their land and homes. To mark this day, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, a million person march was organized throughout all the Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps.

As if the bitterness and pain of the occasion were not enough, the occupying Israeli army opened fire indiscriminately against participants in the march, killing eight people, two of whom were eight-year-old children, and injuring approximately 400 others. Several of those injured remain in critical condition. The eight killings were committed in several places in the Gaza Strip, in particular near the illegal settlement of "Gush Katif". The injuries were widespread throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. Furthermore, another crime was committed against the holy places in Jerusalem. Last night a bunch of Israeli fanatics burned Bab Al-Ghawanima, one of the gates of Al-Haram Al-Sharif. This is yet another in the long history of acts of desecration by Israeli fanatics, which were not prevented by the occupying Israeli authorities.

These crimes, which are typical of the occupying Power and which are now added to the long criminal record of Israeli actions and oppressive measures against the Palestinian people, must be condemned by the international community in the strongest terms. The world must stop the Israeli Government of Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu before it plunges the region into an even more dire and unstable situation. The Security Council, as the body responsible for the

maintenance of international peace and security, should take action in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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14 May 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 64
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN
TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of the Australian Prime Minister dated 12 May 1998 concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter, together with its annex, issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline MILLAR
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement dated 12 May 1998 by the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard, on the Indian nuclear tests

India's action in conducting three underground nuclear tests is an ill-judged step that could have most damaging consequences for security in south Asia and globally.

Australia has a direct security interest in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Indian tests are in flagrant defiance of the international community's strong support for nuclear non-proliferation and its opposition to nuclear testing. To date, 186 countries are party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and 149 countries have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

India's neighbours will naturally be concerned about the tests but a nuclear arms race is not the way to address the issue of maintaining stability in south Asia. The Government urges them not to respond in ways that would further destabilize security in the region.

The Foreign Minister has called in the Indian High Commissioner today to convey our condemnation of the tests in the strongest possible terms. The same message will be registered by our High Commission in New Delhi.

The Government is recalling our High Commissioner from New Delhi for consultations. Further action will be decided in the light of those consultations and discussions with other countries that share our concern.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 36

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 11 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to call your attention to the statement of 7 May 1998 issued by the Presidency of the European Union on the Middle East peace process.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement of 7 May 1998 issued by the Presidency of the European Union on the Middle East peace process

The European Union welcomes the efforts of the United States of America in the London talks, and supports the proposals it has put forward. It also welcomes President Yasser Arafat's acceptance of these proposals. It regrets that it was not possible to reach final agreement on the proposals in London, and encourages the Government of Israel to respond positively to them in order to restore momentum in the peace process and facilitate the resumption of final status talks.

The European Union offered its assistance to the parties in facilitating the discussions in London, and will continue to do all it can to help carry the process forward, in support of the United States efforts.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex which contains a letter of His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 13 May 1998, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 May 1998 from the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter dated 13 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the recent suggestions of the Russian Federation on demilitarization, as contained in document A/52/876-S/1998/346 dated 27 April 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Letter dated 13 May 1998 from the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Turkish Cypriot views and concerns on demilitarization have been repeatedly made known in the past and I had no intention of bringing this subject up especially at this crucial juncture in the Cyprus question, when all our efforts should be directed towards the creation of a new basis for dialogue. However, in the light of the recent suggestions of the Russian Federation on demilitarization, which have also been circulated as a United Nations document, I felt there was now a need to reiterate our views on this issue.

I wish to stress at the outset that, in accordance with the basic principles of the Cyprus negotiating process, only the Secretary-General of the United Nations, under whose auspices the negotiations are being conducted, has the mandate to make suggestions, in consultation with both sides, on any aspect of the Cyprus question. Demilitarization of Cyprus has never been on the agenda of the United Nations as a subject to be discussed and agreed to during the negotiating process but rather as an ultimate objective to be taken up by the parties after an overall settlement. In fact, paragraph 53 of the United Nations "set of ideas" states that "the demilitarization of the federal republic remains an objective". Naturally, the realization of this long-term objective will depend on the development of trust and confidence between the two peoples of the island.

Greek Cypriot insincerity and hypocrisy on this subject is evident from its amassing of weapons; its military preparations carried out within the context of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine, including the opening of the Paphos air base for the use of the Greek Air Force and the impending deployment of the sophisticated S-300 missiles on the island. With these endeavours, the Greek Cypriot side has demonstrated that it is bent on escalating the conflict rather than resolving it. In fact, we have no doubt that the Greek Cypriot-inspired ideas of addressing the issue of demilitarization prior to a settlement are aimed at diluting and eventually doing away with the Treaties of Guarantee and of Alliance, the only effective instruments which prevented the Greek-Greek Cypriot front from taking over Cyprus.

Indeed, there is still no indication that the Greek Cypriots have abandoned their aim of converting Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot state. On the contrary, everything they say or do indicates that the Greek Cypriots feel that they have finally come to the point of consolidating and strengthening their usurped status as the "sole government" in Cyprus and becoming the supreme rulers of the island through membership in the European Union.

If the Russian Federation genuinely desires to help ease the tension on the island, it is our firm view that it can do so by halting the sale of heavy and

sophisticated armaments to the Greek Cypriot administration, such as the T-80U battle tanks and the S-300 missile system.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 64 and 81
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of 13 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the underground testing of three nuclear devices at the Pokaran test site in India.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement of 13 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan is authorized to state that the news of the conduct on 11 May 1998 of underground testing of three nuclear devices at the Pokaran test site in India was received in Kazakhstan with deep concern. This action jeopardizes the progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons achieved since the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

India's conduct of nuclear tests will lead to an escalation of tension in the region. Kazakhstan remains of the view that the conditions put forward by India for its accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should be discussed exclusively through negotiations with a view to arriving at mutually acceptable decisions on the existing problems in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The Republic of Kazakhstan calls on India to renounce the nuclear option and reaffirm to achieve a safe and stable world, global partnership and economic development.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 64
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Don McKinnon, concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter together with its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Michael J. POWLES
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 15 May 1998 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India

I am writing to record New Zealand's grave concerns about the testing of five nuclear devices by India. New Zealand condemns these tests, as we have condemned all nuclear testing in the past. We welcome the presidential statement from the Security Council strongly deploring the tests.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1996, has been signed by an overwhelming number of countries. This represents the culmination of years of effort by New Zealand and others to bring about an end to nuclear testing for all time. We are deeply disappointed that India, which has always professed its commitment to nuclear disarmament, has failed to live up to these ideals. We call upon India unconditionally to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

New Zealand also appeals to India's neighbours to remain calm in response to these events. It is imperative that there should be no further steps which might weaken the international norm against nuclear testing. We accordingly urge all States that have not yet done so to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay.

These events must not be allowed to set back the nuclear disarmament process. It is vital that we continue to move forward towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

United Nations A/52/905

General Assembly

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15 May 1998

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 132

Financing of the United Nations Missions in Haiti

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the financial performance reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for the liquidation period from 1 to 31 July 1996 (A/52/833) and on the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (A/52/854). The Advisory Committee also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the maintenance of UNSMIH for the month of July 1997, the maintenance of the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) for the period from 1 August to 30 November 1997 and the liquidation of UNTMIH thereafter (A/52/869). The report of the Secretary-General (A/52/869) also contains the revised budget for the maintenance of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) for the period from 1 December 1997 to 30 June 1998, as well as the revised budget of MIPONUH for the period from 1 July 1998 to the end of its mandate on 30 November 1998 and for its liquidation from 1 December 1998 to 30 June 1999. During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

Financial performance report for the liquidation of the United Nations Mission in Haiti from 1 to 31 July 1996

2. The mandate of UNMIH was terminated on 30 June 1996 by the Security Council in its resolution 1048 (1996) of 29 February 1996. Subsequently, by its resolution 1063 (1996) of 28 June 1996, the Council established UNSMIH with an initial mandate until 30 November 1996. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/14 of 4 November 1996, appropriated $1,197,100 gross ($1,185,800 net) for the liquidation of the Mission (1 to 31 July 1996).

3. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 March 1998 (A/52/833); the related expenditures for the liquidation of UNMIH amount to $1,159,000 gross and net, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $38,100 gross ($26,800 net) (see para. 11 below). The Advisory Committee notes that the balance resulted from a lower than anticipated average troop strength, the recording of expenditures for international staff salaries against the UNSMIH accounts and the non-rental of heavy-duty vehicles. The Committee was informed that obligations in the amount of $22,000, included in the expenditures in annex I to the report, have been eliminated since the preparation of the report.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 11 of annex II B to the same report that the unutilized balance of

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$31,400 resulted from the fact that salaries for the eight international civilian personnel who remained for the liquidation of the Mission were charged to UNSMIH rather than UNMIH (see para. 11 below). The Committee recalls that all payroll charges for international staff salaries are allotted to the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see A/52/860, para. 16). The Committee regrets that no satisfactory explanation was provided for recording these expenditures in the subsequent period. The Committee has commented on this problem in its general report on peacekeeping (A/52/860).

5. The Advisory Committee welcomes the steps taken to improve the Mission's procurement planning mentioned in paragraph 8 of the report (A/52/833). It notes that in February 1996, UNMIH management circulated a list to requisitioners setting out purchases made in the previous six months, grouped by commodity. This was intended to facilitate long-term planning by consolidating requirements and, as a result, competitive bulk purchases and associated economies of scale were achieved. Similarly, the Committee notes from paragraph 10 of the report that planning procedures were further strengthened with the development and issuance of a draft of the Survey Mission Handbook, which establishes procedures and checklists for use by planning personnel in the future.

6. With respect to the action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the financing of UNMIH, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly take note of the unencumbered balance of $38,100 gross ($26,800 net) for the period from 1 to 31 July 1996. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on the treatment of the unencumbered balance upon receipt of the final performance report of UNMIH, which is expected to include up-to-date data on expenditures.

Financial performance report for the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

7. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General of 1 April 1998 (A/52/854), the initial mandate of UNSMIH was subsequently extended by the Security Council in a number of resolutions, including resolution 1086 (1996) of 5 December 1996, extending the mandate of UNSMIH until 31 May 1997. Following a review by the Security Council of the report of the Secretary-General of 24 March 1997 (S/1997/244), the Council further extended the Mission's mandate for the final time until 31 July 1997.

8. As indicated in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General of 1 April 1998 (A/52/854), the General Assembly appropriated the total amount of $56,105,000 gross ($53,708,600 net) for the operation of UNSMIH for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. The related expenditures for the same period amount to $46,988,000 gross ($45,428,900 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $9,117,000 gross ($8,279,700 net). As indicated in the report, expenditures include unliquidated obligations amounting to $16,317,600. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 April 1998, unliquidated obligations amounted to $5,393,000.

9. The unencumbered balance resulted primarily from underexpenditures in civilian personnel costs ($5,887,700) owing to delays in the deployment of civilian police officers and international staff, premises/accommodations ($501,000), transport, air and naval operations ($1,834,400), communications ($130,600) and supplies and services ($3,473,600). The unutilized balances were partially offset by additional requirements arising primarily from the conclusion of agreements with troop contributors for the provision of contingent-owned equipment, supplies and services under the wet-lease and self-sustainment arrangements ($3,671,700) (see A/52/854, para. 5 and annex I). Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with the rough estimates of possible savings of up to $2.8 million in various budget lines as a result of the implementation of wet-lease arrangements for contingent-owned equipment (see annex to the present report). It is the intention of the Committee to revert to this matter when it examines the various reports on contingent-owned equipment that are forthcoming.

10. The Advisory Committee recalls its views, as indicated in paragraphs 19 to 22 of its report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860), on the subject of problems relating to the format, quality and content of performance reports. These are to a large extent applicable to the case of UNSMIH. For example, the report focuses too much on statistical compilation of accounting information, with limited information on the problems encountered by the Mission. Furthermore, the annexes to the report do not provide unit cost ratios that would permit an analysis of the efficiency of expenditures as related to the original budget estimates.

11. As shown in annex I to the report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860), the review of the performance report of UNSMIH revealed that the initial budget to which it

related was overestimated. Taking into account the fact that obligations of $383,003, which pertained to UNMIH for the period ending 30 June 1996, were recorded in the UNSMIH accounts for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, the overestimation as a percentage of initial budget proposals was 16.6 per cent. As shown in table 1 of the same report, as at 31 March 1998, the unliquidated obligations remaining amount to $212,400. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition, the amount of $620,000 relating to the repatriation in July 1996 of an UNMIH contingent was charged to the UNSMIH budget. The Committee points out that, had it been recorded properly, there would have been a shortfall rather than an underexpenditure for the period ending 30 June 1996. In the opinion of the Committee, while efforts to achieve savings should certainly be encouraged, the presentation of inflated estimates indicates that improvement needs to be made in a number of aspects of budget formulation.

12. With respect to the action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in connection with the financing of UNSMIH, the Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $9,117,000 gross ($8,279,700 net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly.

Revised cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 for the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

13. The Advisory Committee recalls that for the reasons indicated in the annex to its report of 5 March 1998 (A/52/818), it had concluded that there was no basis for it to report to the Fifth Committee on the budget estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General of 20 February 1998 (A/52/798) for the periods from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 for the peacekeeping operations in Haiti. The Committee requested that revised estimates be prepared for 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 based on accurate data. The Committee further requested that the report should be simplified and all amendments and corrections should be incorporated into the new document.

14. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1998 (A/52/869) that the cost of maintaining UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH for the 12-month period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 has been revised from $34,334,400 gross ($31,963,900 net) proposed in document A/52/798 to $30,318,800 gross ($29,080,800 net), a decrease of $4,015,600 gross or 11.7 per cent ($2,883,100 net). The cost estimates proposed in document A/52/798 and the revised estimates contained in document A/52/869 both include budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $1,999,900.

15. As indicated in paragraph 11 of the report (A/52/869), some 30 per cent of the proposed amounts is based on standard ratios and costs contained in the Standard Ratio/Cost Manual. The remaining 70 per cent covers mission-specific requirements and other items that vary from the standards.

16. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed that total contributions to the Trust Fund for the Enhancement of UNSMIH Capacity and the Trust Fund for the Enhancement of UNTMIH Capacity amount to $41,181,602. Expenditures amount to $37,001,246, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $4,180,356.

17. With regard to the latest cash position of the peacekeeping operations in Haiti, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 11 May 1998, $93.2 million was the position with respect to UNMIH and $10.0 million with respect to UNSMIH. Furthermore, as at 30 April 1998, unpaid assessments amounted to $6,064,109 for UNMIH and $7,499,711 for UNSMIH.

18. As to the number of claims pending and paid in relation to contingent-owned equipment, the Advisory Committee was informed that for UNMIH the estimated amount due is $10,008,290 and for UNSMIH $2,564,635.

19. With respect to the action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in connection with the financing of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH, the Advisory Committee recommends the appropriation and assessment of $13,227,900 gross ($12,602,500 net), inclusive of the amount of $9,237,300 gross ($8,805,800 net), for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, authorized by the Committee under the terms of Assembly resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994. As indicated in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1998 (A/52/869), this appropriation is in addition to the amount of $15,091,000 gross ($14,478,400 net) already appropriated and assessed under Assembly resolution 51/15 B of 13 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of $561,000 for the support account for peacekeeping operations.

Revised cost estimates for the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

20. As indicated in paragraphs 13 and 14 of document A/52/869, for the maintenance of MIPONUH for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1998 and the liquidation of the Mission for the period from 1 December 1998 to 30 June 1999, the cost estimates proposed in document A/52/798 amounted to $19,428,800 gross ($18,600,500 net), as compared to the revised estimates of $18,524,800 gross ($17,779,200 net) contained in document A/52/869, or a decrease of $904,000 gross ($821,300 net). The cost estimates proposed in document A/52/798 and the revised estimates contained in document A/52/869 both include budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $1,714,200.

21. For the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, the Committee recommends, taking into account its observations in paragraph 23 of its report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860), a reduction of 5 per cent in the proposed appropriation and assessment for MIPONUH, resulting in the amount of $15,970,070 gross ($15,261,750 net). As recommended in its report on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/52/897), this amount would be inclusive of the pro rata share of MIPONUH of the costs of the United Nations Logistics Base for 1998-1999.

Annex

Implementation of wet-lease arrangements for contingent-owned equipment

1. As a result of the implementation of the wet-lease arrangements for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, requirements under the contingent-owned equipment budget line increased and requirements under other budget line items decreased. Provided below are rough estimates of the possible savings in UNSMIH that were attributable to the implementation of the wet-lease arrangements. In this connection, it should be noted that there has not been ample time to perform full reviews of the savings listed below.

International and local staff

2. On a post-facto basis, it is estimated that nine international posts in the area of logistic support were blocked as a result of the implementation of the new arrangements for contingent-owned equipment, resulting in savings of approximately $991,000.

Transport

Spare parts, repairs and maintenance

3. Provision was made in the budget for 147 military pattern vehicles at an average monthly cost of $330 per vehicle, resulting in savings of $582,100 for the purpose of vehicle spare parts. Additional savings in respect of civilian pattern vehicles are estimated at $100,000.

Contractual services

4. It has been estimated that there should be savings of approximately $1.6 million under contractual services against contingent support previously provided by Brown & Root and Serv.Air.

Communications spare parts

5. The total savings of $66,400 was incurred as a result of the wet-lease arrangements.

Other equipment, spare parts

6. The total savings of $23,900 was incurred as a result of the wet-lease arrangements.

Quartermaster and general stores

7. The total savings of $53,100 was incurred as a result of the wet-lease arrangements.

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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of May 1998, and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

Today, 15 May 1998, the Arab world commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of al-nakba (the catastrophe), the dispossession of the Palestinian people and the uprooting of over 750,000 Palestinians from their land and homes. Since then, and for half a century, the Palestinian people have continued to endure grave injustices and suffer from all forms of persecution and denial of their basic human and national rights. There have been numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the injustices that befell upon the Palestinian people and for the achievement of their national and human rights, including their right to self-determination.

One of the most relevant resolutions of this occasion is General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 on the partition of Palestine. That resolution called for the creation of Arab and Jewish States no later than October 1948. On the strength of that resolution Israel declared its establishment 50 years ago. The Arab State called for in the partition resolution has never materialized. Over the past five decades the international

community, through the United Nations, has reaffirmed its call for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions related to the question of Palestine and on many occasions has censured Israel for its violation of relevant United Nations resolutions and international law.

What adds to the bitterness of the occasion is the crime perpetrated by the occupying Israeli army against the Palestinian people during the commemoration of this sad anniversary, which resulted in killing nine Palestinians and injuring hundreds. Furthermore, this anniversary comes at a time when the Middle East peace process is at a dangerous crossroads as a result of the intransigence of the Israeli Government and its defiance of the will of the international community, international law and the efforts of the co-sponsors of the peace process.

It is the duty of the international community to ensure respect for all United Nations resolutions and to exert the necessary effort to implement those resolutions leading to a just resolution of the Palestine question and a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

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18 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 64 and 71
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the attached statement issued on 12 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in response to the underground nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 May 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 71, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 12 May 1998

On 11 May 1998, India conducted three underground nuclear tests.

This event has aroused profound concern in Ukraine as it undermines the moratorium on nuclear testing which the States of the world have been observing for a long time.

Our State, whose people have experienced the terrible consequences of radiation exposure, believes that none of the defence or security considerations of any country can justify the resumption of nuclear testing.

Ukraine, which voluntarily renounced it arsenal - the world's third largest - of nuclear weapons and refrained from nuclear testing, condemns this act of India which constitutes a threat to existing international agreements in the field of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Ukraine calls upon the Governments of India and other States to cooperate more actively in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and towards the final prohibition of nuclear weapons.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 38, 81, 97, 98 and 152
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint declaration by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on the development of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among the three countries on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony of the Deriner Dam on 26 April 1998 in Trabzon, Turkey (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 38, 81, 97, 98 and 152 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Azerbaijani Republic

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Georgia

(Signed) Vulkan VURAL
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkey

ANNEX

Joint statement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey issued at Trabzon, Turkey, on 26 April 1998

1. The President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Süleyman Demirel, met in the city of Trabzon, Turkey, on 26 April 1998 on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony of the Deriner Dam, and considered the further enhancement of friendship, cooperation and good-neighbourliness among the three countries.

2. The Presidents expressed their readiness to further develop and deepen the existing relations of special friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation among the Azerbaijani Republic, Georgia and the Republic of Turkey. They stated that they viewed those relations as an increasingly developing and significant element of peace and stability, economic development and closeness based on mutual interests among the peoples in the region.

3. The Presidents referred to the importance of expanding and increasing the effectiveness of joint efforts, both at the regional and international levels, to ensure security and stability in the region. They emphasized the urgency of peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region, based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders. They underlined the necessity to increase the effectiveness of joint efforts in the struggle against aggressive separatism and all forms of terrorism.

4. The President of the Republic of Turkey expressed his support to the realization of the principles of the Tbilisi Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region (A/51/89, annex), signed by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic and the President of Georgia.

5. The Presidents emphasized the importance of increased economic cooperation, as well as of joint efforts for the preparation and realization of wide-scale regional projects. Emphasizing the importance attached to the realization of the east-west energy corridor, crossing the Caspian and Caucasia, which they assessed to be one of the primary routes for the transport of the energy resources of the Caspian Basin, the Presidents expressed their readiness to take concrete steps towards the implementation of projects concerning transportation of Azeri oil by the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan route and of Caspian Basin natural gas to Turkey through Azerbaijan and Georgia.

6. The Presidents underlined the importance of the development of the historic Silk Route and of the Eurasian transportation corridor TRASECA, as well as of the acceleration of the construction of the Kars-Tbilisi railway, a high-priority element of this corridor.

7. The Presidents stressed the importance of joint efforts aimed at the protection of the environment, including the Black Sea, the Turkish Straits and transboundary ecosystems.

8. The Presidents noted with satisfaction that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region has entered into a new stage of development, and that its transformation into a regional international organization would undoubtedly make a great contribution to the enhancement of economic cooperation among the countries of the Black Sea Basin.

9. The Presidents agreed to take steps that in the future would bring closer the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region and of the Caspian Basin and that would enable the deepening of mutual understanding and, on that basis, confidence and mutual respect among the peoples of the region.